Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Previously Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A metal sterilization container for sterilizing items in a gas plasma sterilization medium, the container comprising:
an aluminum lid having a first set of vent holes;
an aluminum bottom having a second set of vent holes, the aluminum bottom attachable to the aluminum lid;
a first and second filter medium, permeable to the flow of gas plasma, respectively associated with the first and second set of vent holes; and
an anodic coating substantially applied to the aluminum lid and the aluminum bottom, the anodic coating having a thickness substantially not exceeding 0.5 mils (0.0005 inches) and substantially not below 0.2 mils (0.0002 inches).

22. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein the aluminum comprises 6061 T6.

23. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein the anodic coating comprises a thickness substantially not exceeding 0.3 mils (0.0003 inches).

24-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein the anodic coating comprises a thickness substantially between 0.3 mils (0.0003 inches) and 0.5 mils (0.0005 inches).

28. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein the first set of vent holes and the second set of vent holes are offset from each other.

29. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, further comprising a first gasket attachable between the aluminum lid and the aluminum bottom.

30. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, further comprising a first filter retainer plate attachable to the aluminum lid, the first filter retainer plate having a set of vent holes substantially offset relative to the first set of vent holes.

31. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein the first filter medium and the first retainer plate are ~~is~~ substantially affixed to the aluminum lid with a gap between the aluminum lid and the first filter retention plate in the region of the vent holes.

32. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 73, wherein the second filter medium and second retainer plate are ~~is~~ substantially affixed to the aluminum bottom with a gap between the aluminum bottom and the second retention plate in the region of the second set of vent holes.

33. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, further comprising a second gasket attached to said first retainer plate positioned to create a seal with said lid when in a sealing position.

34. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21 comprising one or more gaskets.

35. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 34 wherein each gasket is independently selected from the group consisting of silicone, neoprene, Teflon and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 73, further comprising a third gasket attached to said second retainer plate positioned to create a seal with said bottom when in a sealing position.

37-38 (Previously cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein each filter medium independently comprises a member selected from the group consisting of paper, Teflon, porous stainless steel, polysulfone, hydrophobic material, and mixtures thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, further comprising a third set of vent holes substantially located in the aluminum bottom.

41. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, wherein the aluminum lid and the aluminum bottom are substantially electrically insulated from each other.

42. (Previously Presented) A system for sterilizing items in a container with a gas plasma, the system comprising:
means for introducing gas plasma; and
the container of claim 21.

43-54 (Previously cancelled).

55. (Currently Amended). A method for sterilizing instruments in a metal container having a lid and a bottom, the lid having a first set of vent holes and a first filter medium, the bottom having a second set of vent holes and a second filter medium, the method comprising the steps of:
placing at least one instrument in the metal container;
passing a gas plasma sterilization medium through the first set of vent holes and the first filter medium;
causing the gas plasma sterilization medium to turbulently flow within the metal container;
substantially restricting the electrical current between the lid and the bottom, wherein the lid and bottom comprise an anodization layer with a thickness not greater than 0.5 mils (0.0005 inches) and substantially not below 0.2 mils (0.0002 inches); and

passing the gas plasma sterilization medium through the second set of vent holes and the second filter medium.

56-63 (Previously cancelled).

64. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an aluminum sterilization container having a lid and a bottom, the method comprising the steps of:
forming a first set of vent holes in the lid;
forming a second set of vent holes in the bottom; and
applying a substantially uniform anodic coating to the lid and the bottom, the anodic coating having a thickness no greater than 0.5 mils (0.0005 inches) and substantially not below 0.2 mils (0.0002 inches).

65-72 (Previously cancelled).

73. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 21, further comprising a second filter retainer plate attachable to the aluminum bottom, the filter retainer plate having a set of vent holes substantially offset relative to the second set of vent holes.

74. (Previously Presented) The metal sterilization container of claim 39, wherein said hydrophobic material is a polyethylene/polypropylene.